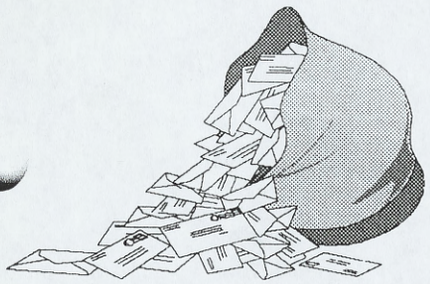
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Vol. 11, No. 4 April, 2003 www.lambdaletters.org LambdaLP@aol.com (916) 728-1261

Important News About AB 196

Your Chance to End Discrimination

by Teri Ford

Discrimination affects everyone. In January Mark Leno (D–San Francisco) authored AB 196, which prohibits discrimination and harassment against transgendered people in housing and in the workplace. AB 196 would eliminate some of the fears that transgendered people still face—the possibilities of losing their jobs because they are different from the majority of Americans.

AB 196 has traveled through the Committee on Labor and Employment. The bill is now in the Appropriations Committee. It will soon return to the State Assembly floor for a vote. Because the votes will be close, Assemblymember Leno's office requests your help.

Write or call the following Assemblymembers to show your support for AB 196.

Everyone has the right to work and live in the United States free from discrimination or harassment. Contact your local church, talk to business owners you know, and inform people about whom to contact. You can make a difference as to whether or not this bill becomes law.

Here is the general address for all Assemblymembers:

Name
Room # (see list below)
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

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and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

And here are the Assemblymembers to contact:

Rudy Bermudez (D–Bellflower)
Room 5135
Phone: (916) 319-2056
Fax: (916) 319-2156

Ronald Calderon (D–Montebello)
Room 2179
Phone: (916) 319-2058
Fax: (916) 319-2158

Rebecca Cohn (D–Campbell)
Room 3173
Phone: (916) 319-2024
Fax: (916) 319-2124

Lou Correa (D–Santa Ana)
Room 6025
Phone: (916) 319-2069
Fax: (916) 319-2169

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters & Messages Collected

February, 2003	14,205 letters & e-mails
In all of 2003	30,754 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

February, 2003	$4,205
In all of 2003	$9,373

Can You Help?
Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy; and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered and intersex persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in American society.

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Thomas J. Knutson, PhD, Sacramento, thomasknutson@attbi.com
Allan Robin, Sacramento, aer4nyl@pacbell.com
Stephen D. Simon, Los Angeles, sdsimon@attbi.com

Staff

Chief Lobbyist, E-mail Alert Advocate: Boyce Hinman, (916)728-1261, lambdalp@aol.com
Newsletter/Website Editor: Stefan Gruenwedel, sgorsp@peoplepc.com
Legislative Analysts:

- LGBTI Issues: Boyce Hinman, lambdalp@aol.com
- People of Color Issues: Marty Martinez, mmar10ez@aol.com
- HIV/AIDS Issues: Jamie E. Shauvin, jamieshauvin@aol.com
- Women's Issues: Adrienne Lauby, adrienne@monitor.net; Teri Ford, fastcarand6pack@aol.com

General Coordinator: Aeire Stickney, aeire@ngender.net
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Postmaster: send address changes to
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Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave?
If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212.
The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

HIV/AIDS Issue

Ease Rules on Needle Sales

by Jamie E. Shauvin

According to the Department of Health Services (DHS), California spends over $315 million a year on services to people with HIV and AIDS. As of last December, there were 123,819 cumulative cases of HIV/AIDS reported in California since the outbreak of the epidemic.

The DHS also reports that just shy of 20 percent of all cases of HIV infection are related to the sharing of dirty needles by intravenous drug users. Reducing the sharing of dirty needles significantly could have a huge impact on the spread of HIV. A reduction in sharing dirty needles would probably do much to lower the state's cost of treating the disease.

Existing law requires a person to properly establish his or her identity in order to purchase a needle or a syringe, and for pharmacists to keep detailed records of nonprescription sales of hypodermic needles and syringes.

SB 774 would eliminate both the identity requirement and the requirement that pharmacists keep detailed records of such sales.

Introduced by State Senator John Vasconcellos (D–San Jose), SB 774 is currently in the process of being reviewed by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and will be sent to the California Senate Appropriation Committee for review in late April.

Please urge the California Senate Appropriation Committee to approve SB 774, eliminating the requirement for a person to properly establish his or her identity in order to purchase a needle or a syringe, and for pharmacists to keep detailed records of nonprescription sales of hypodermic needles and syringes.

SB 774 could do much to slow the spread of serious blood-borne diseases. That, in turn, could greatly reduce the current projected health services costs to the state of caring for people with those diseases.

Please sign the sample letter in support of SB 774, which is addressed to the members of the California Senate Appropriation Committee.

###

Women's Issue

Protect the Victims of Domestic Violence

by Teri Ford

Victims of domestic violence suffer terrible torment from their partners. These victims, often women, frequently do not leave because they are afraid. The emotional and physical abuse they experience in these relationships also takes a heavy toll on their children. When courageous women seek help, our legal system may not have the sufficient means to protect them from future attacks by their estranged partners.

AB 1488, introduced by Patricia Bates (R–Laguna Niguel), offers solace to domestic violence victims by strengthening the actions taken to protect them.

This bill affects domestic violence protective orders. If a person is accused of certain crimes, AB 1488 requires that a court hearing be held before the defendant can be released on bail. These crimes include threats to kill, violent actions against, or visiting the residence or workplace of the person who is protected by a restraining order against the defendant.

The bill would also require the court to consider evidence of past court appearances and any danger that may be posed to other people if the accused is released. A judge or magistrate can set the bail for higher than the specified amount listed in the schedule. AB 1488 would make it tougher for a defendant to continue abusing the victim.

AB 1488 protects women and their children from the on-going threats and violence of their estranged partners. Victims of domestic violence deserve a future. Give these families hope by supporting AB 1488.

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LGBTI Issue

Enhance Domestic Partner Rights, Responsibilities

by Teri Ford

There are currently 15 rights and responsibilities enjoyed by married couples that are granted to couples who register as domestic partners in California. AB 205, called the Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003—authored by Assemblymembers Jackie Goldberg (D–Los Angeles), Christine Kehoe (D–San Diego), Paul Koretz (D–West Hollywood), John Laird (D–Santa Cruz), and Mark Leno (D–San Francisco)—further expands the rights and responsibilities of registered domestic partners.

According to the AB 205 Fact Sheet, this bill includes laws that regulate the following situations:

- Financial support during and after the relationship (if the relationship terminates), including community property ownership
- Protection from discrimination by public agencies
- Situations involving children, such as child custody issues, visitation, and financial support
- Rights as a surviving partner, such as the consent to autopsy, decisions regarding the burial of a partner, and anatomical donations
- Bereavement, family care, and medical leave, along with the coverage of domestic partners under medical, dental, life, and disability insurance
- Pension rights and death benefits granted to the surviving partners of firefighters and police officers
- Mutual responsibilities for debts to third parties
- Disclosures regarding family relationships
- The ability to file jointly on state income tax returns, to use different tax rates, and to benefit from estate and gift tax exemptions
- Housing protection for domestic partners, including access to family student housing, senior citizen housing, and rent control protections
- Benefits regulated by the government, including workers compensation, public assistance, the transfer of licenses upon death, and the ability to apply for absentee ballots for a partner

Continued on page 15

People of Color Issue

Support Cultural and Linguistic Healthcare Services

by Marty Martinez

As California's communities become increasingly diverse and integrated, culturally and linguistically competent care is essential for communities of color. According to data from the 2000 Census, these communities represent 53 percent of the state's population. Almost 40 percent of Californians speak a language other than English at home.

Despite these statistics, there are no specific standards or requirements for commercial health plans to provide their patients with culturally and linguistically competent care, such as interpreters to schedule medical appointments or translate enrollment forms.

Studies show that this lack of language services affects access to healthcare services and preventive care, resulting in greater emergency room use, impeding patients from comprehending diagnoses and asking questions, and increasing the likelihood of patients missing appointments.

Each person's health impacts us all, and because culture strongly influences one's perception of disease, prevention, and behavior modification, it's imperative to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate health services.

SB 853 by Martha Escutia (D–Norwalk) would address this problem. This bill requires the Department of Managed Health Care to conduct the following:

- Develop standards for access to qualified health interpreters for persons who have limited English proficiency, and enact requirements for informing enrollees of the ability to access interpreters
- Specify documents that must be translated, as well as the languages involved
- Regulate the methods that health plans must use to assess the cultural and linguistic needs of their enrollees
- Define health plan conduct to ensure that they provide healthcare services in a culturally competent and sensitive manner
- Monitor and enforce compliance

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April Legislative Update

This year could be a blockbuster year for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) community. Because it's not an election year, legislators may be somewhat less afraid to act courageously, which gives us just about our best shot to convince them to vote for our bills. Last year at this time there were six LGBTI bills that we were supporting; this year there are seven.

Three very important bills include AB 17, AB 196, and AB 205. (See the bill list below for details.) If we succeed, there will be a monumental improvement in the status of our community. We are working hard to obtain passage of these bills, and we invite you to join us in that effort.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 4 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To increase personal income tax rates, beyond the present maximum of 9.3 percent, for that portion of the taxable income of an individual exceeding $130,000 and for that portion of taxable income of married taxpayers filing jointly exceeding $260,000.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support. This will reduce the pressure to cut important health programs.

AB 685 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To quickly increase the number of people allowed to do rapid HIV tests by authorizing certain non-healthcare professionals to conduct the tests, but only under specified, tightly controlled circumstances.
Status: Referred to Assembly Business and Professions and Health Committee for a hearing probably on April 8.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1324 (Darrell Steinberg, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To provide that if certain state or local firefighting, law enforcement, or patrol members sustain an injury that meets the definition of a blood-borne infectious disease, and a dependent contracts the blood-borne infectious disease from that person, the dependent shall be awarded worker's compensation for the duration of the disease for all medically necessary healthcare costs.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Insurance Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1363 (Patty Ber, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To authorize cities or counties to develop clean needle and syringe exchange projects that contain prescribed components, and to authorize pharmacists, physicians, and certain persons authorized under those projects to furnish hypodermic needles and syringes without a prescription or permit. This bill would require a participating county or city to assess the project using certain criteria and submit a progress report that takes into consideration data from the assessment.
Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1676 (John Dutra, D–Fremont)
Purpose: Existing law permits counties to alert persons about their exposure to HIV when they are reasonably believed to be spouses, sexual partners, or partners of shared needles of individuals who test positive for HIV. Counties must refer exposed persons to appropriate care and follow-up. This bill would, in addition, require counties to provide exposed persons with appropriate counseling.
Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 71 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Among other things, to authorize school districts to provide comprehensive sexual health education, as defined, in kindergarten and grades 1–12, and to require school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades 7–12 receive HIV/AIDS prevention education.

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Merrisa L. Coleman
Attorney

Family Law, Domestic Violence, Estate & Financial Planning, Transgender Issues

4960 Almaden Expressway #317
San Jose CA 95118
Tel: (408)265-9681 Fax:(408)265-9681
MerrisaSJC@aol.com

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Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 131 (Byron Sher, D–Redwood City)
Purpose: To change first-time possession of a small amount of marijuana from a misdemeanor to an infraction with a lesser penalty.
Status: Referred to Senate Public Safety Committee for a hearing on April 1.
LLP Position: Neutral. The bill seems to increase the number of times a person must actually be booked at a police station for marijuana possession.

SB 151 (John Burton, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To eliminate the extra paperwork required of doctors when prescribing a Schedule II controlled substance (mostly potent pain medications).
Status: Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a vote on March 26. If approved by that committee, it will be referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee.
LLP Position: Support. The bill should reduce the barriers to providing adequate pain management to patients.

SB 774 (John Vasconcellos, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To authorize a licensed pharmacist to sell hypodermic needles or syringes to a person without a prescription under specified conditions, and to authorize a person to possess up to 30 hypodermic needles or syringes if acquired through an authorized source. These things would facilitate authorized clean needle exchange programs around the state.
Status: Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a hearing on April 23.
LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex Issues

AB 17 (Christine Kehoe, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To prohibit a state agency from entering into a contract for the acquisition of goods or services with a vendor or contractor who does not offer benefits to domestic partner employees, as defined, that are equal to benefits offered to employees with spouses, except as otherwise specified.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a hearing on April 1.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 18 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To prohibit gender, sexual orientation, physical disability, medical condition, and mental disability discrimination against the public, or other state employees or people on an employment list, by a state employee.
Status: Author is dropping the bill. He may use it for another purpose later.
LLP Position: Neutral.

AB 75 (Gloria Negrete McLeod, D–Montclair)
Purpose: To authorize agencies contracting with California's Public Employee Retirement System to provide the survivors of a deceased, retired local firefighter an allowance equal to 40 percent of a specified portion of the deceased member's retirement allowance plus 75 percent of the remaining portion of the deceased member's allowance.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security Committee for a hearing on April 2.
LLP Position: Support if domestic partners are added to the list of eligible survivors.

AB 76 (Ellen Corbett, D–San Leandro)
Purpose: To make it unlawful for an employer to fail to take immediate and appropriate corrective action to prevent harassment of an employee by an applicant, or a person providing services or by any person, once the employer knows or should have known of this conduct.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 196 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To ban discrimination against transgendered people.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

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AB 205 (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To extend the rights and responsibilities of marriage to registered domestic partners, and to revise the process for registering as domestic partners.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a hearing on April 1.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 266 (Gene Mullin, D–San Mateo)
Purpose: To authorize the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to elect to phase-in domestic partner benefits to the partners of county employees and retirees, through collective bargaining and based on actuarial cost estimates.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 458 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To guarantee the rights of a foster child to have fair and equal access to all services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and not to be subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or mental or physical disability. Also to require training for administrators, licensing personnel, licensed foster parents, and relative caretakers to include training about this right.
Status: Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee for a hearing on April 8.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1082 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: The state government and many local governments are part of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). This system allows these governments to offer health benefits to the domestic partners of their employees and retirees if the employees or retirees and their partners meet the state's definition of domestic partnership. Some local governments that are not part of PERS have also offered health benefits to the domestic partners of their employees and retirees using a definition of domestic partnership different than that established by the state. This bill states that if one of these governments joins PERS they may continue offering domestic partner benefits previously provided

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to partners and even to those in relationships that meet the local government's previous definition of domestic partner, but not the state's definition.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Employees Retirement and Social Security Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1327 (Mark Wyland, D–Vista)
Purpose: To roll back part of the domestic partner and family benefits of a bill passed last year. That bill, SB 1661, allowed employees to take paid time off through the state's disability insurance program to care for seriously ill family members, including domestic partners. AB 1327 would exempt employers who employ fewer than 50 people within a 75-mile radius of the worksite of the individual requesting leave. Also, to be eligible, an employee must work at least 1,250 hours during the 12-month period prior to the period for which the individual is requesting the family temporary disability leave.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Insurance Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 1520 (Christine Kehoe, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To create the California Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Veterans' Memorial Commission and provide for its composition and duties. It would authorize the design, construction, and dedication of a memorial at an unspecified site, and authorize the commission to establish a schedule for its design, construction, and dedication; to solicit designs and devise a process for selection of the final design; and to monitor construction. This bill would require that the funding for the memorial be from private contributions.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 85 (Tom Torlakson, D–Walnut Creek)
Purpose: To allow any county to offer the same death benefits, optional retirement allowances, or survivor's allowances to a registered domestic partner of a county employee or retiree that are currently offered to a spouse of a county employee or retiree. However, for the domestic partner to qualify for the benefits, an affidavit of domestic partnership must be on file with the county one year prior to the employee's retirement or death prior to retirement.
Status: Approved by the Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee and sent to the Senate floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 30 (Keith Richman, R–Granada Hills)
Purpose: To require the state to expand the Healthy Families Program to provide health insurance coverage to employed, childless adults who are uninsured for healthcare coverage and who meet certain household income requirements, subject to approval of a federal waiver and appropriation of state matching funds.
Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 54 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To require the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to contract with an independent evaluator to conduct a study of the availability and effectiveness of cultural training for public school teachers and administrators. The bill would require the study to focus on 10 culturally diverse schools that reflect the diverse demography and geography of California and would prescribe criteria for selecting those schools.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee for a hearing on April 2.
LLP Position: Support.

Deborah A. Brooks
Certified Public Accountant



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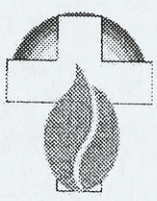
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AB 174 (Thomas Calderon, D–Montebello)
Purpose: To help mitigate the effect of increases in community college fees. Governor Davis has proposed more than doubling the fee per unit of credit for community colleges. This bill states that if community college fees are increased, only the first ten units will be payable at the new rates; any additional credits will be free.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Committee on Higher Education for a hearing on April 1
LLP Position: Support. People on limited income depend on low-cost community colleges to receive their college education, which increases their chance of getting good-paying jobs.

AB 177 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To require that voters pamphlets include a statement setting forth various specified rights of voters during an election. The secretary of state would be required to print posters in English and Spanish, setting forth the list of rights, and distribute the posters to county elections officials for display by precinct officials at their polling places.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Elections, Redistricting, and Constitutional Amendments Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support but would like other minority languages added to the bill.

AB 203 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To require the state to conduct an annual study of physician reimbursement rates in medical assistance programs in *the* five states, *other than California, that have the largest number of residents,* and to submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature on the study.
Status: Passed by the Assembly Health Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a hearing on April 2.



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LLP Position: Support. The concept is to see if we should adjust the rates paid to doctors for caring for Medi-Cal patients.

AB 227 (Juan Vargas, D–National City)
Purpose: To prohibit an insurer from using credit ratings, credit reports, credit scoring models, or credit information to underwrite, classify, or rate certain automobile and property insurance policies. The bill would also prohibit an insurer from refusing to issue those policies, and from non-renewing or canceling those policies, based upon credit grounds.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Insurance Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 231 (Darrel Steinberg, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To help people qualify for the CalWorks and Food Stamp Programs which serve limited-income people in California. Because their assets are reviewed to see whether they qualify for the programs, this bill states that a car owned by someone should not be considered when determining whether that person has few-enough assets to qualify for the programs.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee for a hearing on April 8.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 292 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To provide that a state or local governmental agency, or a public or private agency supported by state funding, shall not use any child, or permit any child to be used, as a translator or interpreter in any matter involving the business or function of that agency except as specified. Also to require each agency that receives state funding to have available for inspection an established procedure for translation services that provide competent translation services.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Business and Professions Committee for a hearing on April 1.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 309 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: Existing law requires a person in a trade or business who negotiates contracts primarily in Spanish to deliver a Spanish copy of the contract to the other party prior its execution. Failure to do so can void the contract. This bill extends these provisions to any

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foreign language. Only becomes operative if SB 146 is also passed.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee and referred to the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 316 (Simon Salinas, D–Salinas)
Purpose: The delivery of healthcare to agricultural workers in rural areas is often hampered by issues of language and cultural sensitivity. This bill would encourage healthcare delivery systems to use the program known as *Promotores de Salud* (promoters of health), which provides access and outreach in a manner which is culturally and linguistically accessible to agricultural workers and their families.
Status: Introduced. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 570 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: Existing law requires people engaged in a garment manufacturing business to register with the state labor commissioner and pay a registration fee. Part of the fee goes into a special fund to compensate garment workers who aren't paid their wages, expenses, or benefits by a garment manufacturer, jobber, contractor, or subcontractor. This bill would authorize the state to use *all* the special funds every year to compensate workers who have been harmed.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 801 (Manny Diaz, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To create a voluntary program for physicians. It would develop classes to teach foreign languages to interested physicians, and teach physicians about cultural practices and beliefs that impact healthcare. The bill would reduce the barriers to healthcare faced by many minority Californians.
Status: Introduced. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 858 (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To generally prohibit public schools from using certain specified terms as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee for a hearing on April 23.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1278 (Jerome Horton, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: To require high schools to offer courses of study relating to the economics of higher education and instruction on completing forms relating to student financial aid.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee for a hearing on April 2.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 14 (George Nakano, D–Torrance)
Purpose: To declare February 19, 2003, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.
Status: Signed by Governor Davis.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 3 (Jerome Horton, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: To urge Congress and the president of the United States to repeal a provision of the 1998 amendments to the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 that denies or delays access to financial aid based upon convictions for drug-related offenses.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee for a hearing on May 6.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 4 (Dennis Mountjoy R–Monrovia)
Purpose: The National Slave Memorial Act (HR 196) was introduced in the House of Representatives on January 7, 2003, to authorize the secretary of the

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Brian K. McMartin
Broker Associate, GRI, ABR
2509 Capitol Ave, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816
Direct Line: (916) 451-5767
Fax: (916) 446-2136
brian@brianmcmartin.com
www.brianmcmartin.com

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interior to establish a memorial to slavery in the District of Columbia. This bill would urge that this bill be passed by Congress and signed by the president.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Granted reconsideration. The author can ask for another vote.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 4 (Dennis Hollingsworth, R–Riverside)
Purpose: Commencing with taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2003, to reduce all marginal tax rates, as provided, and to eliminate the tax on taxable income and the alternative minimum tax for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2007.
Status: Referred to Senate Revenue and Tax Committee for a vote on March 26.
LLP Position: Oppose. These tax cuts are unreasonable when the state is considering massive cuts to education and health programs.

SB 17 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To amend the laws relating to property taxes on nonresidential commercial and industrial property to eliminate loopholes that have allowed such properties to evade reassessment upon sale of the property.
Status: Has not yet been assigned to a committee.
LLP Position: Support. This bill would increase tax revenues and reduce the need to cut spending on health and social services programs.

SB 24 (Liz Figueroa, D–Fremont)
Purpose: To require the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program to confirm the eligibility of, and issue a Medi-Cal card to, any child under the age of one who appears to be eligible for Medi-Cal. This bill would provide another door into Medi-Cal for poor children and eliminate the need for them to go to another office to apply for Medi-Cal.
Status: Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a hearing on March 26.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 36 (Wes Chesbro, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To provide that federally qualified health center services and rural health clinic services, as defined, are covered benefits under the Medi-Cal program, to be reimbursed to providers on a per-visit basis. The bill would also provide for various requirements pertaining to the reimbursement of these services.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 43 (Gil Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To provide an easy way for people to contribute to the Emergency Food Assistance Program Fund by submitting extra money with taxes owed to the state each year. The bill would permit this until January 1, 2009.
Status: Referred to the Senate Revenue and Tax Committee for a vote on March 26.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 57 (John Burton, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To adjust the hourly minimum wage on January 1, 2004, and annually thereafter, to maintain employee purchasing power.
Status: Referred to the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee for a vote on March 26.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 101 (Wes Chesbro, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To require most healthcare service plans and disability insurance policies to provide coverage for the treatment of medically necessary substance-related disorders, excluding caffeine-related disorders, on the same basis as they provide coverage for any other medical condition.
Status: Referred to the Senate Insurance Committee for a vote n April 30.

SB 142 (Dierdre Alpert, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To require the state to establish a process for county Medi-Cal eligibility staff members to authorize eligibility for children in the Healthy Families Program if the child meets the program's eligibility requirements.

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Currently county Medi-Cal staff are not doing this.
Status: Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a hearing on March 26.
LLP Position: Support. This bill would create an additional gate through which children could be enrolled in the Healthy Families Program.

SB 146 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To help non-English-speaking people understand business contracts they sign. Current law requires business people who negotiate certain contracts primarily in Spanish to deliver a Spanish translation of the contract to other parties prior to execution of the contract. This bill adds that the Spanish document must include a translation of every term and condition in that contract.
Status: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on April 8.
LLP Position: Support, but we would like other languages added to the bill.

SB 148 (Tom Torlakson, D–Walnut Creek)
Purpose: To encourage the building of low-cost housing and an end to urban sprawl. Currently some of the property taxes on housing goes to the state and some to the counties. This bill states that if a county uses zoning laws to encourage the building of housing that can be served by existing infrastructure (sewers, electrical systems, and so on), *and* if the county invests in low-cost housing, the county can keep all the property taxes generated by that property.
Status: Introduced. Not referred to a committee yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 853 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To require that healthcare service plans in California offer access to language assistance and culturally competent health care services.
Status: Referred to the Senate Insurance Committee for a hearing on April 30.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 921 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To provide affordable healthcare for all Californians, by establishing a "single payer" health plan. Moderate premiums would be gathered by the state from employers, employees, and through taxes on certain products and used to pay the fees of various healthcare providers.
Status: Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a hearing on April 30.
LLP Position: Support.

SBX1 1 (Charles Poochigian, R–Fresno)
Purpose: To suspend all bills relating to worker's compensation, labor standards, and agricultural labor relations that were approved last year, until the governor issues a proclamation declaring that the California economy has fully recovered from the recession that began in 2000.
Status: Referred to the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Watch with concern. This may invalidate bills of concern to people of color.

SBX1 3 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To amend the laws relating to property taxes on nonresidential commercial and industrial property to eliminate loopholes that have allowed such properties to evade reassessment upon sale of the property.
Status: Has not yet been assigned to a committee.
LLP Position: Support. This bill would increase tax revenues and reduce the need to cut spending on health and social services programs.

SJR 3 (Richard Alarcon, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To urge Congress to increase the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant funding to certain states; to allow states until January 1, 2005, to use TANF funds for eligible families who have used 60 months of TANF eligibility; and to consider "stopping the clock" on TANF assistance for recipients who are meeting work participation requirements or live in counties with high unemployment rates.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Awaiting assignment to a committee in the Assembly.
LLP Position: Support.

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Women's Issues

AB 23 (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: To require healthcare providers to accept and support specified rights of mammography patients, and require patients to accept specified responsibilities.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee. Withdrawn for amendments at the request of the committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 134 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: In certain circumstances, to increase the penalty for domestic violence if the accused had been convicted previously of domestic violence.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 2.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 143 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To express the intent of the legislature to enact laws to authorize a court to award temporary support to victims of domestic violence prior to requiring that person to file for divorce, legal separation, or nullity of marriage and spousal, child, or family support.
Status: Introduced. Not referred to a committee yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 145 (Alan Lowenthal, D–Long Beach)
Purpose: To require probation officers to receive initial and refresher training in domestic violence.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on April 2.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 183 (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: To include licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed clinical social workers services within the scope of Medi-Cal covered benefits, to the extent that federal matching funds are available for those services.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Committee on Health and referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 184 (Alan Lowenthal, D–Long Beach)
Purpose: To allow the driver's registration public records of the victims of domestic violence and stalking to be kept confidential.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Transportation Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a hearing on April 2.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 367 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To establish a state program to inform pregnant women, new mothers, and healthcare professionals of certain postpartum mood and anxiety disorders.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 383 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: Existing law states that a person charged with domestic violence must be present for arraignment and sentencing. This bill states that such a person must be present at *any* time during a trial to be sure to hear the terms of any protective order issued by the court. This would prevent the defendant from later violating a protective order and claiming he or she didn't know the terms of the order.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee for a vote on April 1.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 506 (Bill Maze, R–Visalia)
Purpose: To require the police in sexual assault cases to test the victim's urine to see if the victim had been drugged by the attacker, unless the victim objects to the test.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee for a hearing on April 1.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 547 (Carol Liu, D–Pasadena)
Purpose: To require a healthcare service plan and a health insurer to provide coverage for specified tests and procedures relating to the screening and diagnosis of ovarian cancer.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

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Legislative Update

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AB 814 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To put into actual law a state supreme court decision which states that a defendant may be found guilty of rape if the victim, having consented to sex, then withdraws that consent during intercourse and communicates that withdrawal, but the rapist doesn't stop.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee for a vote on April 1.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1201 (Patty Berg, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: Medi-Cal pays for the healthcare services needed by many of the poor and disabled. For many of these services payment of the healthcare provider's fees requires prior authorization of the treatment by Medi-Cal. This bill would authorize Medi-Cal to eliminate the requirement for prior authorization for services delivered in a neonatal intensive care setting in an acute care hospital.
Status: Introduced. Not referred to a community yet.
LLP Position: Support.



AB 1269 (Patty Berg, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: The state has a program that provides healthcare to poor women with breast and cervical cancer. Current law provides for continuing care, after a diagnosis of breast cancer, of up to 18 months. This bill would extend the allowable period of treatment to 24 months.
Status: Introduced. Not referred to a committee yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1488 (Patricia Bates, R–Laguna Niguel)
Purpose: To declare that a hearing for a request for release on bail must be held before a defendant charged with certain crimes is to be released. The charges include that the defendant made threats to kill, engaged in violence against, or visited the residence or workplace of a person protected from the defendant by a restraining order.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 6 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To proclaim the month of October 2003 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Rules Committee. May not need hearings from policy or appropriations committees.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 11 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To proclaim October 8, 2003, as Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Rules Committee. May not need hearings from policy or appropriations committees.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 2 (Hannah-Beth Jackson, D–Santa Barbara)
Purpose: To tell Congress and the president of the United States to stand firm in their resolve to uphold the intent and substance of the Supreme Court's decision in Roe *v.* Wade relating to reproductive rights, and to encourage all Americans to participate in the national celebration, "Celebrating 30 Years of Roe *v.* Wade," in recognition of that decision's historic importance in promoting women's rights.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.
LLP Position: Support.

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SB 52 (Dennis Hollingsworth, R–Temecula)
Purpose: To appropriate $15 million to county sheriffs for Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) teams, which would concentrate on tracking sexually violent predators and protecting the welfare and safety of Californians.
Status: Referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee for a hearing on April 1.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 664 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require the State Department of Social Services to allocate an unspecified percentage of the marriage promotion moneys in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Fund to county welfare agencies for domestic violence services for CalWORKs recipients, as specified. Also to require the department to allocate to the Office of Women's Health in the State Department of Health Services an unspecified percentage of the marriage promotion moneys in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Fund to develop and implement a public education campaign that raises awareness about the health consequences of domestic violence.
Status: Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Program for a vote on March 26.
LLP Position: Support.

###

LGBTI Issue

Continued from page 4

- Communication privileges, including the right not to testify against a partner in a court of law
- Legal claims, including claims for victim's compensation

This bill states that a domestic partnership is not automatically invalidated if one or both partners has, at any time, changed his or her gender.

Granting these rights and responsibilities will enhance and support the families created by California's registered domestic partners. AB 205 protects families from economic hardship incurred by the loss of loved ones or by separation. AB 205 fights discrimination by recognizing caring, committed couples regardless of their gender or sexual orientation. Support our families by supporting this important legislation.

###

Your Chance to End Discrimination

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Barbara Matthews (D–Stockton)
Room 5155
Phone: (916) 319-2017
Fax: (916) 319-2117

Cindy Montanez (D–Mission Hills)
Room 5144
Phone: (916) 319-2039
Fax: (916) 319-2139

George Nakano (D–Torrance)
Room 3120
Phone: (916) 319-2053
Fax: (916) 319-2153

Nicole Parra (D–Bakersfield)
Room 2160
Phone: (916) 319-2030
Fax: (916) 319-2130

Sarah Reyes (D–Fresno)
Room 5136
Phone: (916) 319-2031
Fax: (916) 319-2131

Simon Salinas (D–Salinas)
Room 2175
Phone: (916) 319-2028
Fax: (916) 319-2128

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People of Color Issue

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SB 853 would ensure that people of limited English proficiency receive quality and accessible healthcare, and would also eliminate the communication or language barriers that compromise that care.

SB 853 helps improve access to needed healthcare and leads to increased utilization of services. Please write your senator in support of this important bill!

###

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